

## MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

### DRAFT ESSEX CYCLE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The public consultation on the new draft Essex Cycle Strategy is now live. The strategy's vision is to see more people, of all abilities, ages and backgrounds, cycling in Essex more safely and more frequently.

It highlights six key cycling outcomes we want to achieve and sets out activities and actions for the coming years. [Share your views on the draft Essex Cycle Strategy](#) by Sunday 7 July 2024.

### COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

The Community Safety Survey helps police and local authorities understand what matters most to residents. [Take part in this year's Community Safety Survey](#) before it closes on Sunday 30 June 2024. Your views will help develop solutions by local authorities in different parts of Essex.

### APPRENTICESHIPS WITH ACL

Apprenticeships are a great way to upskill your current workforce as well as attract new employees. Offering these opportunities can also help you to retain your talent!

Apprenticeships aren't just for school or college leavers – they can be undertaken at any age and even alongside full-time employment.

Not sure where to start? Unsure of the impact on your business? ACL is here to help!

[Find out more on their website](#)

### NORTH ESSEX ECONOMIC BOARD

Did you know Essex County Council is working with Braintree, Colchester, Chelmsford, Maldon, Tendring, Uttlesford and Epping Forest District to drive forward the North Essex Economic Board (NEEB)? The partnership is committed to empowering businesses, nurturing entrepreneurship and enhancing our residents' lives and opportunities.

## HOME UPGRADE GRANT

More than 15,000 homes in Essex could qualify for free home improvements to save money on their energy bills. Eligible properties could receive government-funded improvements from insulation to solar panels and more.

It's part of the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 scheme. The measures are available for residents who live in hard-to-heat homes and have a combined annual income of less than £36,000. [Find out more about the Home Upgrade Grant](#) and apply.

## ESSEX LIBRARIES BIG SCHOOL MEET UP

Did you know we're running Big School Meetups in every library from now until September? Children starting school for the first time can meet each other, play, and enjoy storytimes and activities together at these free events. The whole family is welcome!

[Find out when your free local meetup is here!](#)

## CHILDCARE REFORMS EXPANSION

As part of the Childcare Reforms Expansion, eligible working parents can now access up to 15 hours of funded childcare. This will be delivered the term after their child turns two-years-old, either weekly term time, or up to 570 hours if accessed all year round.

This is a significant increase in supporting working parents and carers. This will provide support to enable them to work whilst ensuring childcare support is in place. Read about the [expansion to Funded Early Education Entitlements](#).

## ESSEX LIBRARIES SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

It's not long until our Summer Reading Challenge launches and we're looking for volunteers to help keep children reading this summer. Children 14-years-old and over can [volunteer for the Summer Reading Challenge](#). It's a great chance to gain work experience, meet new people and gain valuable life skills.

## CARING COMMUNITIES COMMISSION

We have launched a new commission aiming to address increasing pressures on social care services. The [Caring Communities Commission](#) will explore local and community-based solutions to social care pressures on public services.

The commission will launch in the summer of 2024. It will focus on building capacity within communities for improved resilience, better services and lower costs.

## RIDE LONDON – ACTIVE ESSEX

From Friday 24 May to Sunday 26 May over 20,000 cyclists took part in Ford RideLondon-Essex. It was an amazing weekend of cycling through London and the picturesque villages and countryside of Essex. Thank you to all residents and businesses that supported the riders.

Whether you joined the event or you're looking to get more active this summer. You can [Find Your Active](#) and start your journey to feeling physically and mentally better.

## LONELINESS AWARENESS WEEK

For Loneliness Awareness Week (Monday 10 to Sunday 16 June) the NHS are highlighting ways people can deal with loneliness. It's important to recognise it's normal to feel lonely, for example when starting something new. However, there are things you can do to help. Some tips to tackle loneliness include:

- keeping in touch with people
- connecting with others or volunteering
- sharing your feelings

Find more detailed [tips on dealing with loneliness](#) on the NHS website.

## PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANT

There are thousands of homes at risk of surface water flooding in Essex. Eligible residents can receive a Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant of up to £8,000. The PFR grant could help you equip your home with measures to minimise flood damage and keep your home safe and dry. [Check your eligibility for the PFR grant and apply today.](#)

## ESSEX HIGHWAYS RESURFACING WORKS

Roads across the county will be repaired and maintained over the coming months to improve their quality and durability. With the Essex Highways website you can [find out where roadworks are taking place](#) and use the resurfacing map to plan any journeys and avoid delays.

## ESSEX CARBON CUTTING APP

With weekly interactive activities, the Carbon Cutting Essex app is a fun way to keep track of your carbon footprint. It has already helped thousands of residents in Essex. This month, discover small actions you can take to retrofit your home. Take a step towards a greener future and [download the Carbon Cutting Essex app today!](#)

## ESSEX MULTIPLY

Multiply in Essex can give people the maths skills they need to take on life's challenges and find new opportunities. More than 5,000 residents have improved their numbers skills with free courses through Multiply in Essex.

Multiply has been running in Essex since January 2023. Offering bite-size training to adults aged 19 and above, over 5,000 people have so far benefitted from courses.

Delivered by a network of college and education providers, courses focus on things like:

- assisting residents to gain qualifications and progress at work
- support with managing finances
- helping children with their schoolwork

Charity 3Food4U runs both face-to-face and online Multiply courses. Subjects include everything from functional skills qualifications to cooking on a budget.

The Multiply campaign is now in phase two. This will see at least 4,000 new opportunities created, including 800 specifically targeted to businesses, helping them upskill their workforce.

Multiply aims to address a skills gap in Essex, where adult numeracy ranks lower compared to the national average.

Find out more at the Essex Opportunities website: [www.essexopportunities.co.uk/multiply](http://www.essexopportunities.co.uk/multiply).

Read more about [how Multiply is benefitting residents in Essex](#).

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